

ideas of Justice Ginsburg in thinking, in believing that unless American courts are more open to discussing the ideas raised by foreign cases, and by international cases, that we are going to lose influence in the world."

Similarly, Ms. Elena Kagan asserted that "it may be proper for judges to consider foreign law sources in ruling on constitutional questions." She further stated that judges can get "good ideas" from the decisions of foreign courts. For this reason among others, I opposed both Supreme Court nominees.

Even lower court nominees, such as Third Circuit Judge Thomas Vanaskie, have embraced the trend. In his testimony, Judge Vanaskie implied that he believed the Supreme Court used foreign law correctly in the much criticized cases of *Lawrence v Texas* and *Roper v Simmons*, and said the "opinions of international tribunals and foreign courts may be relevant" when interpreting our Constitution. Because of his statements on the use of foreign law and his expansive view of the commerce clause, I opposed his nomination.

Looking to foreign law is a tool of activist judges who seek to reach the outcomes they desire, based on their personal sympathies and prejudices, rather than on the law. As Justice Antonin Scalia aptly described it, the Court is merely "look[ing] over the heads of the crowd and pick[ing] out its friends." Further, judges who do so violate their judicial oath. A circuit court judge must swear to "faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon her as a judge under the Constitution and laws of the United States." The oath requires our judges to evaluate cases based on U.S. laws and the U.S. Constitution, not the decisions of foreign countries who do not treasure the same liberties and fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. The decisions of foreign countries should have no bearing on an American judge's decisions.

This progressive trend of looking to foreign law is deeply disturbing and is something I hope my colleagues will consider when voting on this nomination and the administration will consider when nominating individuals in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Missourians, I extend my warmest congratulations to the citizens of Iron County and Ironton upon their celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Iron County Courthouse.

Courthouses like the one in Iron County symbolize the basis of America's freedoms: a fair and independent judiciary. America is a nation based on laws and not men.

While it is not perfect, to be sure, our system of justice makes it possible for

all Americans to live in relative peace and prosperity most of the time.

The Iron County Courthouse has long stood as a mark of this community's history. The county from which the courthouse takes its namesake was originally established from portions of the counties of St. Francois, Madison, Washington, Dent, Reynolds, and Wayne by an act of the legislature approved February 17, 1857. According to county records, the Iron County Courthouse was the product of an order which called for the construction of a courthouse and the issuing of county bonds, bearing 10 percent interest, for \$10,000. The courthouse's cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1858, and the structure was completed just 2 years later in October 1860.

In its 150-year history, the Iron County Courthouse has been the site of countless hearings and trials in addition to serving as the home of county offices ranging from soil and water to university extensions. The circuit court for Iron County was organized on May 16, 1858, by Judge John H. Stone. In September 1864, during the Civil War, the courthouse received damage in the Battle of Pilot Knob.

The courthouse has been featured on the cover of several local and regional publications and, even more notably, has earned the honor of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We recognize the important role the courthouse has played in Iron County's history and congratulate local residents on its 150th anniversary.●

REMEMBERING JANET FAIRBANKS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to offer a few words in memory of Janet Fairbanks, a California regional planner who passed away last month in her beloved hometown of San Diego.

Janet Fairbanks was a visionary planner who brought people and communities together to plan for sensible, sustainable growth while protecting the natural environment.

From 1980 until her retirement in 2006, Ms. Fairbanks helped guide the development of growth management and habitat conservation plans, first at the city of San Diego and later at the San Diego Association of Governments, SANDAG. Along with her technical skills and expertise, Janet was known for her outstanding ability to educate public officials and a wide array of stakeholders about the virtues of smart growth, conservation, and biodiversity—and then to bring these often divergent individuals and groups together to create plans that enabled communities to grow and thrive while preserving San Diego County's unique natural areas and resources.

As a longtime member of the California Planning Roundtable, Ms. Fairbanks brought city and regional planners together with conservationists to protect some of California's most precious and endangered natural areas.

And as an active member of the California Biodiversity Council, she brought a planner's comprehensive perspective to the Council's mission of protecting California's fragile biodiversity.

Janet Fairbanks helped to make San Diego County a nationally recognized leader in regional planning and conservation. She will be sorely missed, but her work and legacy will live on in the beautiful communities she helped to create and the natural landscapes she helped to preserve.●

ARKANSAS'S "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS"

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize four Arkansas schools that were recently designated as "National Blue Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. These schools represent the best of our State, and I am proud to congratulate them on this significant achievement.

Arkansas's Blue Ribbon Schools for 2010 are Arnold Drive Elementary School in Jacksonville, Calico Rock Elementary School in Calico Rock, Kingston Elementary School in Kingston and Salem Elementary School in Salem.

The national Blue Ribbon designation honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. Nationally, 254 public and 50 private schools received the designation.

I commend Arkansas's Blue Ribbon Schools for their extraordinary efforts helping students receive a high-quality education and reach their full potential. Education is key to a bright future, and I am proud of these schools for encouraging students to achieve their dreams and goals through a high-quality education.●

HONORING ARKANSAS'S WORLD WAR II HONOR FLIGHT VETERANS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize more than 80 Arkansas World War II veterans who will travel to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the national World War II Memorial and other memorials dedicated in their honor.

The group is traveling as a part of the second Northwest Arkansas Honor Flight. They will fly free of charge from Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport to Washington, DC, and back. Without the efforts of the Northwest Arkansas Honor Flight program, many of these veterans would never be able to visit our Nation's military memorials, including the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials, and Arlington National Cemetery.

This year's veterans range in age from 88 to 98 and include four women